

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3147

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NI

SUBJ: CHANGES IN COST OF FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM

REF : STATE 51768

SUMMARY: NIGERIA IS NOT A RECIPIENT OF GRANT MILITARY TRAINING ASSISTANCE; FMG PAYS ALL COSTS OF MILITARY TRAINING IN U.S. NIGERIAN MILITARY PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN MANAGEMENT RELATED COURSES AND HIGHLY VALUES U.S. TRAINING. INCREASE IN THE COST OF THAT TRAINING IS NOT EXPECTED ADVERSELY AFFECT U.S./NIGERIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS BUT WILL PROBABLY REDUCE NUMBER OF NIGERIAN OFFICERS WHO RECEIVE U.S. TRAINING. END SUMMARY.

1. IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS WHEN NEW COSTS BECOME KNOWN: COUNTRY TEAM DOES NOT FORESEE ANY IMMEDIATE ADVERSE EFFECT ON U.S./NIGERIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS BECAUSE OF INCREASE IN COST OF TRAINING. WHILE INCREASED COSTS WILL NOT RPT NOT BE WELCOME NEWS, NIGERIA'S MILITARY LEADERSHIP IS FAMILIAR WITH INFLATION AND INCREASED COSTS AS THESE ARE PROBLEMS WITH WHICH IT HAS BEEN WRESTLING FOR SOME TIME.

2. WHAT COURSES ARE OF GREATEST INTEREST TO FMG AND WHO PAYS: NIGERIAN ARMED FORCES ARE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN MANAGEMENT RELATED COURSES; TECHNICAL AND MEDICAL TRAINING; AND UNDER-GRADUATE PILOT TRAINING. FMG PAYS FOR ALL RPT ALL TRAINING AND CAN BE EXPECTED CONTINUE REQUEST SPACES IN TRAINING COURSES AT NEW, HIGHER RATES.

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3. WHICH COURSES OR TRAINING ARE OF GREATEST BENEFIT TO U.S.:

NATIONAL INTERESTS: THOSE COURSES WHICH PROVIDE THE GREATEST EXPOSURE TO THE U.S. AND AMERICAN KNOW-HOW PROBABLY ARE OF GREATEST BENEFIT TO OUR NATIONAL INTEREST. SUCH COURSES INCLUDE ADVANCED OFFICERS TRAINING AND ATTENDANCE AT THE COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE. THIS TRAINING MAKES VERY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON NIGERIAN PARTICIPANTS, MANY OF WHOM SUBSEQUENTLY PLAY INFLUENTIAL ROLES IN NIGERIA. FOR EXAMPLE, EIGHT OF NIGERIA'S 19 STATE GOVERNORS (ALL MILITARY) RECEIVED ADVANCED OFFICER AND COMMAND TRAINING IN U.S. SOME OFFICERS, AFTER THEIR U.S. TRAINING, EXPRESS A PREFERENCE FOR AMERICAN MADE EQUIPMENT WHICH MAY IN TURN RESULT IN INCREASED SALES TO NIGERIA'S ARMED FORCES. (FYI: IN RECENT MONTHS THE FMG HAS RESUMED SIGNIFICANT U.S. PURCHASES OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR NIGERIA'S MILITARY. SUCH PURCHASES HAD BEEN DISCONTINUED IN RETALIATION FOR THE USG'S REFUSAL TO SELL ARMS TO THE FMG DURING NIGERIA'S CIVIL WAR. END FYI).

4. WHAT TRAINING WILL BE ABANDONED BECAUSE OF INCREASED COSTS: COUNTRY TEAM DOES NOT ANTICIPATE THAT ANY TYPE OF TRAINING WILL BE ABANDONED IN THE PROXIMATE FUTURE SOLELY BECAUSE OF INCREASED COSTS, ALTHOUGH IT IS LIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE A REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF SPACES REQUESTED ONCE THE FULL IMPACT OF INCREASED COST IS REALIZED.

5. WILL FMG LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR TRAINING: IN ORDER TO AVOID COMPLETE DEPENDENCE ON ANY ONE COUNTRY, FMG POLICY HAS CALLED FOR THE PURCHASE OF TRAINING FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES. PRICE INCREASE SHOULD NOT ELIMINATE U.S. AS ONE OF THOSE NATIONS WHICH PROVIDE TRAINING ALTHOUGH IN THE LONGER TERM SOME TRAINING MAY BE SHIFTED FROM U.S. TO OTHER COUNTRIES OR BE UNDERTAKEN BY INDIGENOUS MILITARY INSTITUTIONS AS MONEY-SAVING MEASURE. EASUM

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